

THE NAVAL HISTORY OF CONNECTICUT



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SHIPS





USS Connecticut (SSN 22)

Named for one of the original 13 states and the river in New England, this Seawolfclass submarine was commissioned on Dec. 11, 1998, at Naval Submarine Base New London, CT. Though lacking vertical launch systems, the Seawolf-class has eight torpedo tubes and can hold up to 50 weapons in its torpedo room. At least 30 ships have been named after the state of Connecticut, its cities, places, and people. They include:

Commodore Hull (Side-Wheel Steamer), 1862
Connecticut I (Gondola), 1776
Connecticut II (Frigate), 1799
Connecticut III (Side-Wheel Steamer), 1861
Connecticut IV (BB 18), 1906
USS Connecticut V (SSN 22), 1998
USS Groton I (PF 29), 1944
USS Groton II (SSN 694), 1978
Hartford I (Screw Sloop of War), 1859
USS Hartford II (SSN 768), 1994
Hull I (DD 7), 1903
USS Hull II (DD 330), 1921
USS Hull II (DD 350), 1935
USS Hull IV (DD 945), 1958
USS Litchfield County (LST 901), 1945

USS Natchaug (AOG 54), 1945
USS Nathan Hale (SSBN 623), 1963
New Haven (Gondola), 1776
New London (Screw Steamer), 1861
USS New London County (LST 1066), 1945
USS O'Neill (DE 188), 1943
Pequot I (Wooden Screw Gunboat), 1864
Quinnebaug I (Sloop of War), 1867
Quinnebaug II (Screw Corvette), 1878
USS Stethem (DDG 63), 1995
Trumbull I (Galley), 1776
Trumbull II (Frigate), 1776
Trumbull III (Sloop of War), 1800
USS Welles I (DD 257), 1919
USS Welles II (DD 628), 1943



Isaac Hull Commodore

Commodore Isaac Hull was born in Derby, CT. During the War of 1812, he commanded USS Constitution and engaged HMS Guerriere, a British frigate, on Aug. 19, 1812. Under Commodore Hull's command, USS Constitution gained the nickname "Old Ironsides" during this engagement because the ship's oak hull was largely immune to British cannonballs. Commodore Hull died in 1843. Five ships have been named in his honor.



Tedford H. Cann Medal of Honor Recipient

Tedford H. Cann was born in Bridgeport, CT. Initially a seaman in the Naval Reserve Force, Cann received the Medal of Honor for closing a leak in a flooded compartment aboard USS May (SP 164) in 1917. His actions prevented the ship from sinking. Cann was commissioned as an ensign in April 1918 and served aboard USS May and USS Noma (SP 131) for the remainder of World War I.



Robert Stethem Steelworker Second Class

Steelworker 2nd Class Robert Stethem was born in Waterbury, CT. He enlisted in the Navy as a Seabee and joined Underwater Construction Team 1. Returning from an assignment on June 14, 1985, Stethem's flight was hijacked, and he was killed during the 17-day hostage ordeal. He was posthumously awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. USS Stethem (DDG 63) is named in his honor.

PLACES





Naval Submarine Base New London

Built in 1868, Naval Submarine Base New London began as a storage depot and naval yard. In 1916, Cmdr. Yates Stirling Jr. became the commander of the Navy's first submarine base and the motto of the base, "The First and Frinest," reflects this proud heritage. Today, the base occupies more than 680 acres and houses more than 70 tenant commands, including the Naval Submarine School.



Naval Operational Support Center Plainville

In 1946, the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Hartford, CT, opened its doors. It moved to Plainville in 1984 and became NOSC Plainville. Its mission is to generate mobilization readiness by providing administrative services, training support, and world class customer service to Reserve personnel in support of surge and operational requirements for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint Forces.

Did You Know...?

The first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN 571), was built in Groton, CT, commissioned there in 1954, and still resides there at the Submarine Force Museum.

Sources: Naval History and Heritage Command; navy.mil; Commander, Navy Installations Command; U.S. Department of Defense; Connecticut's Official State Website. Infographic by Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division.